Reforms in power sector

2244. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with reforms taking place in the power sector, steps are being taken to involve consumers in this process; and

(b) if so, in what manner it is being done, especially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), it is mandatory to install franchisees for management of Electricity Distribution System in rural areas. Franchisees can be Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Users Association, Cooperatives or individual entrepreneurs, the Panchayat institutions can be associated. The franchisees arrangement can be for system beyond and including feeders from substation or from and including Distribution Transformer(s). In 13 states, franchisees are in place in 50,467 villages. In Uttarakhand and West Bengal, Self Help Groups are successfully working as franchisees. In Nagaland, Village Electricity Management Boards are operating as franchisees. In other States, mostly individuals are working as franchisees.

Rise in demand of power

2245. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our power demand would double in four years in 2011-12 with base year 2003, as per a survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the backward poverty-stricken States like Bihar, Orissa, etc. would continue to lag behind the rest of the country; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to help them out from the future power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the 17th Electric Power Survey (EPS) Report, the actual peak demand during the base year 2003-04 was 75756 MW which is estimated at 152746 MW during the year 2011-12 which is almost double with reference to the base year 2003-04.

(c) and (d) In terms of growth in peak demand as projected by the 17th EPS, both Orissa and Bihar are among the States expected to record comparatively higher growth rates for the period up to 2011-12. Similarly with expected compound annual growth rate of 16.40% in case of Bihar and 9.25% in case of Orissa, both the States are above the national average projected for the growth in energy requirement during the same period. Electricity is a concurrent subject. Both the States would need to add adequate generation capacity in their respective State sectors, and develop a matching intra-State transmission and distribution network.

Under the Central sector, in addition to the envisaged substantial generation capacity addition, the inter-State transmission network is also being further augmented for achieving adequate inter-State transmission system support for State Grids.

Supply of coal and gas for power generation

†2246. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient quantity of coal and gas is not being provided to the power generating companies of the States;

(b) if so, the details of the measures being taken to rectify the same; and

(c) whether any research is being conducted by Government for other sources of power generation and if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The following measures are being taken by the Government to ensure availability of coal to power stations:

- Monitoring of coal supply position to thermal power stations by Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power on daily basis.
- Regular periodic monitoring of production, transportation and stock of coal at all the major thermal power stations by an Inter-Ministerial Group headed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal to address the constraints.
- Import of coal to meet the shortfall in supply of coal from domestic sources.
- New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.
- New integrated pithead power and coal mining projects have been envisaged for implementation.
- New power projects entirely based on imported coal have been envisaged.

(ii) Following measures are being taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of gas:

- Intensification of domestic Exploration and Production (E&P) activities.
- Exploitation of unconventional sources like Coal Bed Methane (CBM).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.